(c) by when this export will start and the quantity of sugar being considered to be exported every year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Pakistan has recently decided to allow import of raw and refined sugars from India both by Public as well as Private Sectors including *via* land route, on duties and taxes as levied on its import from worldwide sources.

(c) Export of sugar to Pakistan would be regulated under our current Foreign Trade Policy; according to which sugar is freely exportable except under the perferential quotas to the European Union (EU) and USA, which is through State Trading Enterprises. The, quantity of sugar exported to any country would depend on commercial considerations like the demand, availability, national and international prices, etc. No target is separately being fixed for export of sugar to Pakistan.

Exempting SEZs and EO Units from labour laws

*409. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE and INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Planning Commission has recommended that Special Economic Zones, Export-Oriented Units and large Special-Economic Zones should be given exemption of complying with provisions of some of the Labour Laws;

(b) if so, the details of provisions that Planning Commission wish to exempt for above zones;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Planning Commission has recommended for amending some of the labour laws on priority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) In the Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission observed that there was a need to build a consensus to amend labour laws to remove some of the rigidities that adversely affect the competitiveness of the Indian manufacturing industry, and that can also be a constraint on the expansion of employment

in labour-intensive manufacturing activites. According to the MTA, till such time a consensus emerges, selective exemption from the applicability of some of the laws could be considered for Special Economic Zones and Export Oriented Units.

(c) and (d) Examples of provisions cited which impose rigidity are Chapter V-B of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 that requires companies with more than 100 workers to obtain State Government approvals to retrench their workforce and the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, which restricts outsourcing of core activities.

Installation of wind farm in coastal areas

*410. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had made a study on renewable and non-renewable sources of energy to find possibilities of installing wind farm in coastal area to meet its energy requirements;

(b) if so, the details of such study undertaken by Government in each district in various States; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Wind Monitoring Stations have been installed in various States to find out the Wind Energy Potential in the country including coastal areas under the Wind Resource Assessment Programme of the Ministry. District-wise and State-wise details of the 71 stations set up the coastal districts are given in Statement (See below).

(c) Wind Power Projects are mostly set up, including in the coastal areas, as commercial projects through private investments. Various fiscal incentives including relief from taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation, etc. are provided to step-up the development of commercial Wind Power Projects. The State Governments have announced policy for wheeling, banking and buyback of electricity generated from wind. Loans are available for commercial projects from financial institutions, including Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). A total wind